

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 L-02 H-02

SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 EA-06 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SCCT-01 OPR-02 CU-02 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 A-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PC-01 EB-07 COME-00 /084 W

----- 028553

O 051832Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1354

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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PARIS FOR MELONE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PROP, CASC, ML

SUBJ: TEXACO DIRECTOR'S WIFE INJURED IN STUDENT DEMONSTRATION

REF: BAMAKO 1631

1. FURTHER DETAILS OF ABUSE MICHELINE LABBE, WIFE OF
TEXACO'S DIRECTOR FOR EXPLORATION, ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

2. MRS. LABBE WHO IS CANADIAN CITIZEN WAS RETURNING TO HER
HOME AFTER HAVING TAKEN HER SON TO SCHOOL AT ABOUT 9:30 A.M.
ALTHOUGH SEVERAL ROADS WERE CLOSED BECAUSE OF DEMONSTRATION
SHE WAS DIRECTED BY POLICE ON TO THE ROAD RUNNING IN FRONT
OF PEACE CORPS TRAINING CENTER. SHE WAS UNAWARE THAT A
DEMONSTRATION WAS IN PROGRESS (THERE WAS NO ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE
RADIO OR IN THE PRESS) AND SUDDENLY FOUND
HERSELF IN THE MIDST OF A CROWD OF SEVERAL HUNDRED

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STUDENTS. SINCE THE CROWD HAD CLOSED IN BEHIND HER

SHE WAS UNABLE TO TURN AROUND AND LEAVE. HER CAR WAS BLOCKED BY A GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS ON MOBILETTES. WHEN SHE STOPPED, SOME STUDENTS IN THE CROWD BEGAN THROWING ROCKS AT THE CAR, THEN BROKE INTO IT, DRAGGED HER OUT BY THE HAIR, THREW HER INTO A DITCH AND BEGAN KICKING HER. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS AND MALIAN GUARD AT TRAINING CENTER SAW THIS, RUSHED OUT AND AT GREAT PERSONAL RISK GOT HER INTO THE PEACE CORPS TRAINING CENTER. MOB TRIED TO BREAK IN TO THE CENTER, BUT IT FORTUNATELY HAS VERY HEAVY DOOR. EVENTUALLY A FEW POLICEMEN ARRIVED ONTO THE SCENE. MRS. LABBE'S HUSBAND ARRIVED AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME. ACTING PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR, MR. LABBE AND MALIAN POLICE OFFICER BROUGHT MRS. LABBE TO THE EMBASSY WHERE SHE WAS TREATED BY EMBASSY NURSE. AS FAR AS WE KNOW AT THIS MOMENT HER INJURIES ARE SUPERFICIAL BUT SHE IS NEEDLESS TO SAY NIGHLY UPSET AND IS UNDER SEDATION.

3. AS SOON AS I LEARNED OF THIS INCIDENT I CALLED MINISTER OF DEFENSE, INTERIOR AND SECURITY KISSIMA DOUKARA AND REQUESTED PROTECTION FOR ALL AMERICANS AND AN EXPLANATION AS TO HOW THIS INCIDENT COULD HAVE OCCURRED. SUBSEQUENTLY DOUKARA INFORMED ME THAT ALL AMERICANS WERE PERFECTLY SAFE TRAVELING THROUGHOUT BAMAKO AND THAT HE WAS LAUNCHING A FULL SCALE INQUIRY INTO THIS AFFAIR. CERTAINLY, EMBASSY AND OFFICIAL RESIDENCES WERE THENCEFORTH WEL GUARDED.

4. MRS LABBE WAS DRIVING HER HUSBAND'S CAR AND, IN A SMALL TOWN LIKE BAMAKO, IT IS READILY IDENTIFIABLE AS THE HEAD OF TEXACO'S CAR. AS NEARLY AS I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN MRS. LABBE (WHO IS 25 AND WEIGHS ALL OF 100 LBS) WAS DOING HER BEST TO AVOID HITTING ANYONE. DOUKARA HAS SENT AN OFFICER OF THE SECURITY SERVICES, WHO APOLOGIZED PROFUSELY FOR THIS AFFAIR, TO INTERVIEW MRS. LABBE.

5. COMMENT: THE BASIS FOR THIS DEMONSTRATION REMAINS SOMEWHAT OBSCURE. OSTENSIBLY IT WAS DESIGNED TO DISPLAY SOLIDARITY WITH THE PRG AND VIET CONG, AND WAS BILLED AS BEING "PEACEFUL". OBVIOUSLY IT GOT OUT OF HAND. IN VIEW OF THE OFTEN EXPRESSED MALIAN GRATITUDE FOR UNITED STATES AID TO MALI AND THE PRIDE OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IN THE DISCIPLINE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE MALIAN POPULATION AND THEIR MILITARY EFFICIENCY, I FIND THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI TO PROTECT DEPENDENTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS INEXPLICABLE. I REQUEST AUTHORITY THEREFORE TO PROTEST AGAINST THE LAXITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI IN FAILING TO PROVIDE POLICE PROTECTION IN FRONT OF THE PEACE CORPS TRAINING CENTER AND THEIR FAILURE TO COME IMMEDIATELY TO THE ASSISTANCE OF MRS. LABBE WHEN HER AUTOMOBILE WAS ATTACKED.

6. I SHOULD LIKE ALSO TO COMMEND IN THE HIGHEST TERMS
THE PERSONAL BRAVERY OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS WHO
RESCUED MRS. LABBE FROM DANGER OF SERIOUS INJURY IN
THE FACE OF A HOSTILE MOB.

7. FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, MR. LABBE HAS
INFORMED TEXACO NEW YORK OF THIS INCIDENT AND TEXACO
NEW YORK IS RIGHTFULLY VERY ANGRY.
MCGUIRE

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Message Attributes

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